The
REPORTER
For Conscience' Sake

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Foreign Countries Give Varying Degrees of CO Recognition

Practically all young men in certain districts of northern Norway are COs. Under these circumstances, a number of them are denied their proper classification by the Ministry of Justice, without any obvious reason. Chance plays a large part in determining what classification should be given. Since the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed, it has become more difficult, in general, for all COs to be properly recognized.

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A recent bulletin from the British Information Services describes compulsory military service in Britain. The section on COs tells of the three categories for such men: registered unconditionally as COs, registered conditionally (liable for alternate service), and registered for non-combatant duties. In 1952 there were registered 20 men unconditionally, 376 registered conditionally, and 225 registered non-combatants, with 307 men removed from the register of COs (denied recognition). Tribunals, both local and appellate, have been set up to determine the sincerity of applicants for a CO classification.

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The Service Civil International, an international voluntary service organization, continues to press for alternate service for COs in many European countries. They report that little progress is being made in most countries, except for Holland. Because of courageous relief and rescue work done by officially assigned COs after the recent storms and

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Edgar Metzler is Associate Secretary; Elmer Neufeld to Attend University

Coming from Goshen College Biblical Seminary, where he had been studying for a Bachelor of Divinity degree, Edgar J. Metzler has assumed the responsibilities of Associate Secretary of the NSBRO. He previously attended Eastern Mennonite College and the University of Pittsburgh. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Goshen College in 1951. Edgar has been in Mennonite Voluntary Service, worked at the Mennonite Publishing House, and helped edit a youth magazine.

The new Associate Secretary is 25 years old and his home is in Scottdale, Pennsylvania. In 1951 he married Ethel Yake, also of Scottdale. They have a two-year-old son, Michael.

Elmer Neufeld to Attend University

Elmer Neufeld left the National Service Board for Religious Objectors on July 31 after serving more than three years as Associate Secretary, to pursue graduate study. He will work toward a master's degree in philosophy at the University of Chicago. Additional studies at the Mennonite Biblical Seminary, affiliated with Bethany Biblical Seminary in Chicago, are planned by Elmer after completion of his work at the Unversity of Chicago.

EDGAR METZLER

Coming to the NSBRO just before enactment by Congress of the 1951 amendment to the Selective Service law, which provided for the CO civilian work program, Mr. Neufeld was able to follow the development of the civilian work program for conscientious objectors. He also followed the many changes in the law and regulations since that time. This enabled him to handle the case work at NSBRO, his primary responsibility. In this connection he made numerous contacts with Selective Service and Justice Department officials. He, along with other staff personnel, visited conscientious objectors in prison and helped develop the legal services for lawyers—in cooperation with Attorney Advisor Robert B. Myers. Elmer has often expressed his appreciation for the opportunities of making fine contacts with many registrants and church leaders.

Born in Inman, Kansas, in 1926, and the son of P. T. Neufeld, a Mennonite

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ELMER NEUFELD

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pastor, Elmer entered Civilian Public Service (CPS) in 1944 after graduation from high school. About two years later he was released from CPS. He then entered Bethel College, at Newton, Kansas, graduating in 1951 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a major in social science. He left college for one year to teach elementary school.

Besides his work at the NSBRO, Elmer coordinated the Mennonite Voluntary Service program of the Washington area and helped organize and serve in the Woodridge—previously the Georgetown—Mennonite Church. He and his wife, La Vera Neufeld, also set up and managed the Mennonite Fellowship House.

Mr. and Mrs. Neufeld, with their three-year-old daughter, Carolyn, will reside at the Mennonite Mission Center, 4609 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois, while Elmer attends school.

PENNSYLVANIA APPROVES FOUR HOSPITALS

According to a recent release from State Headquarters, the Pennsylvania Director has approved the following hospitals for the employment of conscientious objectors: Chambersburg Hospital, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; Delaware County Hospital, Lansdowne Avenue, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania; Easton Hospital, Easton, Pennsylvania; and Friends Hospital, Roosevelt Boulevard and Adams Avenue, Frankford, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There are job opportunities for orderlies, maintenance workers, laundry workers, gardeners, attendants, dietary workers, and porters.

I-Ws Discuss Psychiatry and Religion

Psychiatry and Religious was the general topic for discussion at the Topeka I-W Retreat held at Forest Park, May 13-16, 1954. Some topics discussed were: What About People Who Make Psychiatry Their God? What Is Hate and Anger? and Why Does a Person Potentially Hate a Person Most Whom He Loves Most? How Can Our Basic Aggression Be Channeled to Usefulness? Are People Basically Good or Sinful in Nature? What Is Our Obligation to Our Society and to Our Home Churches?

The findings of this conference are available from Mennonite Central Committee, Akron, Pennsylvania.

I-W UNIT PAPERS PROVE INTERESTING READING

A number of fine I-W unit papers continue to come to the NSBRO, and prove to be very interesting reading. Since the listing in the January, 1954, REPORTER, the following have been received: *Public Service Reporter* by the Church of God in Christ (Mennonite), *Indianapolis News* by the Indianapolis I-W unit, *Capitol Highlights* by the Topeka, Kansas, I-W unit, *The Cleveland Chimes* by the Cleveland, Ohio, I-W unit, and the *Steel City Torch* by the Pueblo, Colorado, unit. The last-named paper, after a healthy start, had to stop publication because of the transfer of all Pueblo I-Ws.

The NSBRO is interested in learning about other I-W papers.

HERSHEY SAYS "DEFERMENT NO EXEMPTION"

"Draft deferment is no exemption," General Hershey stated recently in a talk before an association of scientists. He stated that "he was an unshaken advocate of procurement under a system wherein the question as to military service is not whether the young man is to perform but when he is to perform it, the decision to be left with him only to the extent the national security permits." General Hershey is known to be an ardent advocate of UMT.

NOTE, I-W PHOTOGRAPHERS

The I-W Mirror, through the Mennonite Central Committee, is sponsoring a photographer's contest for all I-Ws. Write the *I-W Mirror*, MCC, Akron, Pennsylvania, for contest rules.

67.5 Per Cent I-Ws Are Mennonites

According to figures compiled by Karl Yount, Jr., of the NSBRO office, on June 25, 1954, 67.5 per cent of all I-Ws are Mennonites. To date, the religious affiliations of 3,783 I-W men are known. Of these, 2,554 are Mennonites, including the Amish. This figure does not include 51 members of the Brethren in Christ Church which, even though affiliated with the Mennonite Central Committee, is not historically a Mennonite group. Of the 4,180 men who are, or were, in I-W, the religious affiliations of 397 are still unknown.

Next to the Mennonites, the Church of the Brethren has the highest number in I-W, with a total of 331. Jehovah's Witnesses in I-W total 155; the Society of Friends is next highest with 134 in I-W. The Old German Baptist Brethren is the only other group with over 100 I-Ws, with a total of 105.

SS AMENDMENT ENABLES USE OF DOCTORS IN ENLISTED RANK

An amendment to the Universal Military Training and Service Act was signed by the President on June 18, 1954. Designated Public Law 403, the addition to section 4, subsection (a) of the law is as follows: "*Provided*, That any person heretofore or hereafter inducted or ordered to active duty under the authority of this Act who fails to qualify for, or to accept, a commission or whose commission is terminated may be utilized in his professional capacity in an enlisted grade or rank."

Doctors and other "special registrants" are primarily affected by this law. If they refuse to accept a commission, or do not qualify for a commission—such as not signing a loyalty oath—these doctors can nevertheless be drafted into the armed forces and required to perform their duties while in a rank similar to other draftees. The Supreme Court case of *Orloff v. Willoughby*, 345 U.S. 83, and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals case of *Nelson v. U.S.*, February 9, 1954, were influential in causing Congress to pass this law.

I-W CONFERENCES

Many units of I-W men throughout the country schedule weekend retreats for the spiritual and physical uplifting of their members. Two recent ones, which were well attended, were at Brattleboro, Vermont, and Topeka, Kansas.

Hearing Officer Denies I-O On Basis of "Non-Historic Peace Church" Membership

During a Justice Department hearing, a conscientious objector who had appealed his I-A classification was told by the hearing officer that because he belonged to the Methodist Church instead of a "historic peace church", he cannot be given a I-O classification. From the report of unfavorable evidence, a letter written by the 19-year-old conscientious objector, and a report by a retired Friends minister who was a witness to the proceedings, come the following statements:

Prior to the hearing, the registrant received a summary of the unfavorable evidence gathered by the FBI. The hearing officer writes, "You state you are a member of the Methodist Church, but the Methodist Church is not a pacifist church, nor does it come under the classification of one of the 'peace churches', although your church does make allowance for conscientious objectors. Also, you make no claim to being a minister or a student for the ministry of your church. Your views seem to be personal rather than being based upon the tenets and teachings of any particular denomination; that you joined the Methodist Church in 1947."

The witness, who accompanied the registrant to give moral support and not to testify, quotes the hearing officer as follows: ". . . that he (the hearing officer) had not heard so fantastic views of the Bible from any 19-year-old boy, that you must have associated with crackpots to have your ideas of not resisting invasion in order to protect our civil rights and liberties by not fighting for them. Your philosophy is entirely unreasonable and illogical. You have a fine academic record but you can't have any practical knowledge of the world you live in. You are headed for trouble all your life unless you change your views and are now headed for three years prison. . . . Your church, whose teaching you do not know well, is not a recognized peace church. I can only recommend your classification as I-A."

In answer to a question by the registrant, the minister records the hearing officer's statement: "Certainly you are sincere in the wrong views you hold."

Finally, the registrant himself reports his general feelings about the hearing and the hearing officer: "He expressed disgust with my view in a somewhat loud and angry tone of voice. . . . He said he would have given me a favorable recommendation if I had been a member of one of the 'peace churches'."

REMPEL APPEALS 3-YEAR SENTENCE

John W. Rempel, of Henderson, Nebraska, was sentenced to three years of prison on June 16 by Judge Knous of Denver, Colorado. On August 17, 1953, Rempel refused to submit for induction because he was denied a conscientious objector draft classification by his local and appeal boards. He was arrested about two months later and was tried and found guilty on May 6, 1954. An appeal of this district court decision is being taken to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

This 20-year-old Mennonite was given a I-A by his local board. Upon appeal, Rempel was recommended for a I-O classification by his hearing officer but the Department of Justice reversed the hearing officer and recommended a I-A to the Nebraska Appeal Board. He was given a I-A by the state appeal board and his request for Presidential Appeal was turned down by National Selective Service Headquarters.

Although he never received a I-O classification, John Rempel volunteered and began work in a Denver hospital. He is doing the same kind of work as are many other men who were officially assigned to such work by their draft boards.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES

(*Continued from page* 1)

floods, conscientious objection is being more favorably considered by Dutch officials.

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An article in a recent issue of the *Australian "Peacemaker"* paper states that the Australian National Service Act provides for conscientious objectors regardless of the grounds for such belief, either religious or non-religious. However an editorial comment mentions that the editor did not know of any recognized COs whose beliefs were non-religious in nature.

Petition on COs Sent To UN Commission

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has received a petition, signed by 76 prominent world leaders, urging that the right of conscientious objectors to military service be included in the Covenant Rights. The Covenant is being written in accordance with the UN Charter, which states that human rights and freedoms should be respected and observed. The signers of the petition included statesmen, educators, scientists, and religious leaders from many countries.

The War Resisters International, in sponsoring this petition, states that 58 countries have compulsory military service, but only 18 recognize COs. The petition requested the Commission to give special attention to conscientious objection, as this is based on the greater rights of freedom of religion and conscience.

When the first drafts of the Covenant on Human Rights were written almost eight years ago, recognition of conscientious objection was included, but it was later dropped. In 1949 the Service Civil International submitted a similar petition, as well as the Friends' Committee for Consultation in 1950. All petitions are reported to the members of the Commission on Human Rights, who may introduce the petitions for the Covenant. The Commission will not meet together until this fall, at which time a country may introduce the right of conscientious objection for consideration.

OREGON F.O.R. DISTRIBUTES "QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS"

A program of distributing literature on the CO draft classifications to all high school principals, Senior Boys Counselors, and to male high school students of draft age has been started by the Oregon Fellowship of Reconciliation. An explanatory letter and a copy of the NSBRO booklet "Questions and Answers on the Classification and Assignment of COs" was sent to the school officials. A brochure explaining the draft classifications for COs was sent to all boys who will soon register. Reports are that the State Selective Service headquarters have registered disapproval of this practice.

HERE AND THERE

A four-point policy of non-cooperation with compulsory civil defense has been issued by the Consultative Committee of the War Resisters International, according to a recent publication of the War Resisters League. Briefly, the points are that civil defense is a part of the psychological preparations for war, its major intent is the protection of installations necessary for war, it is an essential part of war planning, and conscription for a purpose associated with war facilitates the acceptance of war itself as an instrument of foreign policy.

* * *

Eighty-six men and women signed a statement promising "total non-cooperation" to the un-American Activities Committee "or any similar official or unofficial body". The statement was sponsored by the Peacemakers, a national pacifist organization.

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Miss Georgia Harkness, professor of applied theology at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California, is the winner of a contest in which a hymn was to be written in recognition of the forthcoming assembly of the World Council of Churches. Five hundred texts were received in the contest. It is reported that Miss Harkness is a pacifist.

* * *

According to a *recent "spot check"* of 558 conscientious objectors not yet assigned to alternative service in a state with a large CO population, 5% are college graduates, 50% are high school graduates, and 50% are not high school graduates. In this same state, 47% are Mennonites, 20% are Brethren, 20% JWs, and 13% belong to other groups.

* * *

Harold Flakser of Brooklyn, New York, has a complete file of the REPORTER, *for Conscience' Sake*, beginning with Volume 1, Number 1, published in July, 1942, up to the present time. *Will other readers* who have complete sets, or nearly complete, let us know? This is very interesting information to editors.

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Order No. 3229 (Revised), issued by the Attorney General on January 13, 1953, is recalled frequently these days. It is the order to any officer or employee of the Department of Justice to refuse to produce or disclose the information in the files of the Department. It is the fifth revision of this order, originally dated May 2, 1939.

Citizens for Conservation, Inc., 1710 Sixteenth St., N. W., Washington 9, D. C., has just been formed to promote the conservation of human and natural resources at the community level. This organization wants to enlist the support of communities and the general public, especially those previously connected with the CCC or other conservation programs.

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The Board of World Peace of the Methodist Church has released the following data concerning Methodist men in alternative service (I-Ws) and I-Ws in Methodist institutions: Out of 40 Methodists in I-W, 8 are in Methodist projects. Out of 219 I-Ws in 47 Methodist projects, 92 are with Goodwill Industries, 115 in hospitals, 3 in Homes for the Aged, 5 in Homes for Children, 2 in a Home-Hospital, and 2 with the Methodist Board of Missions.

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In an article in "Capitol Highlights", published by the Topeka, Kansas, I-W unit, Jim Rich, the author, said this: *"Without Christianity as a basis, pacifism* would be no more than another technique to gain advantage and an inexpedient one at that in many situations. However, pacifism is a different and greater concept when incorporated into Christianity. It then carries intrinsic value as it is an expression of the love of God."

* * *

The Denver, Colorado, alternative service (I-W) unit is producing an annual for all Denver I-Ws and their wives. It will contain individual pictures of all the unit members plus many group pictures showing their work and activities. The unit recently held an election of officers and appointed a number of committees to carry on the full program of unit activities. New editors of their paper, "The Denver Post-Mortem", were also elected.

"The Cleveland Chimes", a publication of the Cleveland I-W unit, in a recent article raised the question about the *testimony of I-Ws who smoke*. The editor said: "I am wondering what kind of a testimony it leaves when smoking is done on the job, at ball diamonds, and in other places where one is in contact with people. . . . One hospital unit leader has had hospital personnel come to him several times saying, 'Okay, you fellows are going to be different; how about all this smoking that is done on the job by you fellows?' "

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Willis R. Knight, 2527 Clairmont Terrace, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, edited the Spring, 1954, issue of the *College Park Newsletter*, a paper published in the interest of comradeship and brotherhood by the alumni of CPS Unit 116, College Park, Maryland. The next editor will be Paul Shoger, Route 1, Oswego, Illinois.

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Wither Freedom, a 24-page booklet about the treatment of conscientious objectors in the U. S. during World Wars I and II and its relationship to the concept of freedom and democracy, is available through the NSBRO office, 1105 K St., N. W., Washington 5, D. C., for only 25¢. Written by Harry A. Wallenberg, Jr., this well-documented booklet should be of interest to not only pacifist but also to all those interested in civil and religious liberties.

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Elmer Neufeld, in an article in the June, 1954, "Services Bulletin" of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), describes a recent visit to three Mennonite youths in the Chillicothe, Ohio, federal prison. He also relates the position of men who were unable to be classified as COs by Selective Service and other men who have received CO classifications. Reasons why men are not given a CO classification are also discussed.

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